

June 2014



## just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.



For more information on this subject, scan this QR code using a barcode reader app on your smartphone.



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
561-686-8800 • 1-800-432-2045  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

## L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)

*The L-8 FEB is included in a suite of projects in the State of Florida's \$880 million Restoration Strategies plan to improve water quality in the Everglades. Initially, the deep-storage reservoir will function as a multipurpose Flow Equalization Basin to capture, store and deliver water to two Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), the Loxahatchee River and for other restoration purposes. When an expansion of STA-1 West is completed and in-basin storage for the Loxahatchee River comes online, the L-8 FEB will transition to primarily delivering consistent flows needed to optimize performance of STA-1 East and STA-1 West.*

### Background & Project Overview

- Stormwater Treatment Areas are constructed wetlands that serve as the water-cleaning workhorses of Everglades restoration, using both emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation to naturally remove nutrients from the water that eventually flows to the Everglades.
- A flow equalization basin (FEB) is a constructed storage feature used to capture and store peak stormwater flows. Water managers can move water from FEBs into STAs at a steady rate to optimize STA performance and achieve water quality improvement targets.
- Located in central Palm Beach County, this project builds on a strategically located 950-acre former rock mine.
- The location's unique geology allows for deep, below-ground storage, reduces water loss through seepage and minimizes levee safety concerns.
- Initially approved in 2002, the District expedited completion of the reservoir's storage cells along with several water control structures in the Loxahatchee watershed designed to reconnect historical flow paths.
- The 53-feet-deep reservoir is capable of storing 45,000 acre-feet, or 15 billion gallons, of water – enough to fill 34,000 football fields one foot deep.
- When the additional infrastructure improvements are in place, the Flow Equalization Basin will be able to accept up to 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of stormwater inflows. As needed, the stored water can then be pumped out at a discharge rate of up to 450 cfs.

### Project Benefits

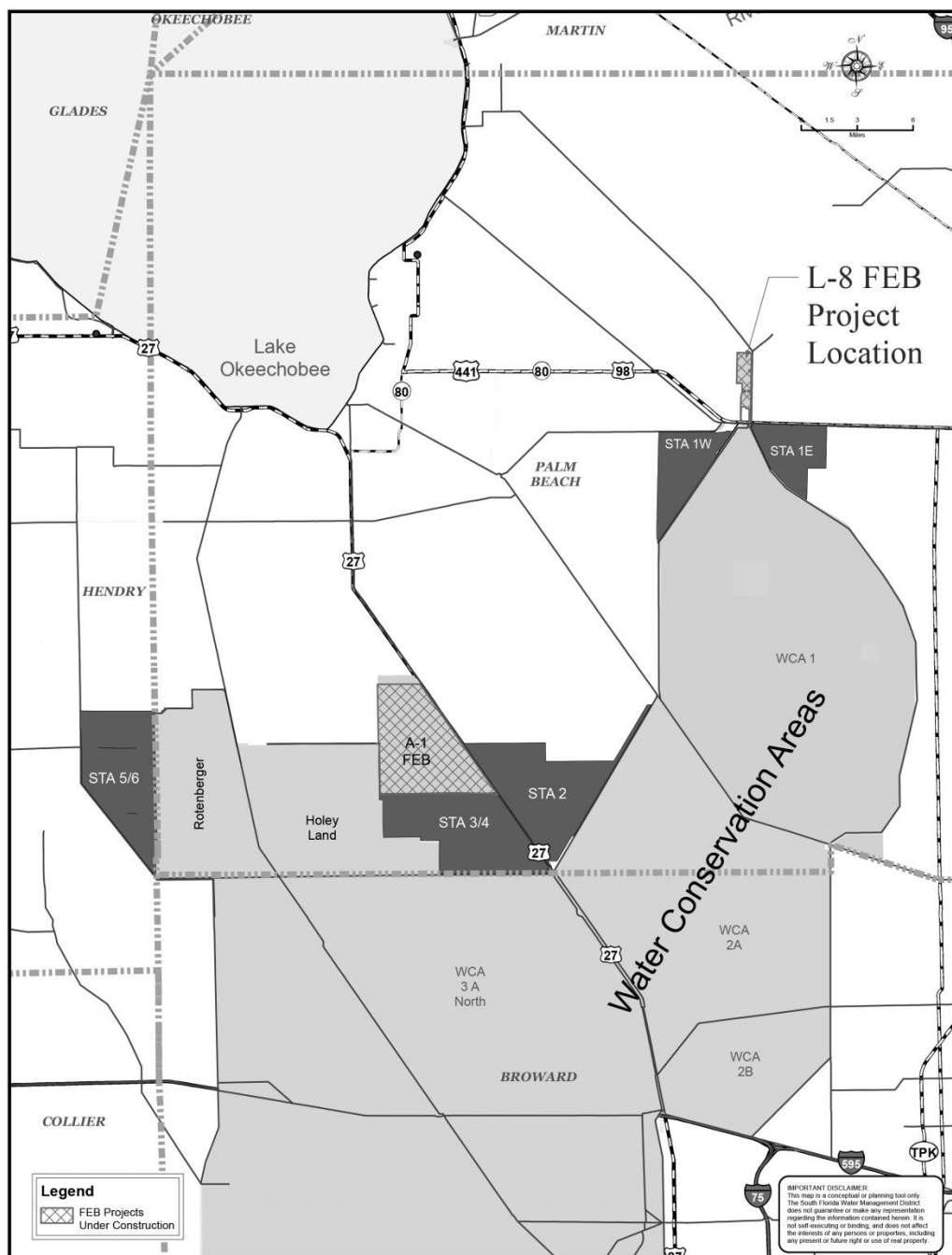
- Maximizes water quality improvement capabilities to the Everglades
- Expands water storage south of Lake Okeechobee
- Supports Loxahatchee watershed restoration (*interim measures*)
- In addition to restoration, offers flood control and water supply benefits
  - ✓ The existing reservoir has been used to help alleviate flooding during major rain events, including tropical storms and hurricanes.
  - ✓ The City of West Palm Beach has utilized water from the reservoir to enhance water supplies during prolonged dry periods.

### Construction Status / Timeline

- Construction is underway on the inflow works and outflow pump station.
- The target project completion date is December 2016.

(more)

## L-8 Flow Equalization Basin - Project Site Location



For more information on Restoration Strategies for Clean Water for the Everglades, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies](http://www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies).